
U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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MERIT PROMOTION ANNOUNCEMENT

This is a Food Safety Initiative Position

Announcement Number: FDA-0-4041

Opening Date: July 21, 2000

Closing Date: August 21, 2000

Position Title/Series /Grade: Interdisciplinary Scientist, GS-*-13
(401 – Biologist, 403 – Microbiologist, 487 – Animal Scientist, 601 – General Health Scientist,
701 – Veterinary Medical Officer, 1320 – Chemist)

Promotion Potential: GS-13

Organization/Location: Department of Health and Human Services, Food and Drug Administration, Center for Veterinary
Medicine, Office of Surveillance and Compliance, Division of Epidemiology, Rockville, MD
Metro Park North II

Salary Range: \$60,890 - \$79,155 per annum

Relocation Expenses: Relocation expenses will be paid.

Area of Consideration: Government-Wide

- This position is open to current permanent Federal employee in a competitive position or a former employee with reinstatement eligibility
- A person eligible for veterans' preference or person separated from the armed forces under honorable conditions after 3 years or more of continuous military service may apply
- This position is appropriate for Commission Corps.

Bargaining Unit Status: This is a bargaining unit position.

Type of Appointment: Career/Career Conditional

Condition of Employment: Certain positions within FDA are subject to strict restrictions on financial holdings (FDA regulated financial holdings). To determine whether this position is affected, applicants are advised to seek more information contact the Ethics Staff, Division of Management Programs on (301) 827-5511.

This agency provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify this agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK: This position is located in the Division of Epidemiology, Office of Surveillance and Compliance, Center for Veterinary Medicine. The incumbent of this position is responsible for and participates with other Team personnel in the design and development of epidemiological protocols for studies in support of the Center's Food Safety Initiative Surveillance Plan. These include but are not limited to describing trends and associations related to antimicrobial resistance in zoonotic enteric organisms from outbreak

investigations, field studies, monitoring systems, surveys, and analytic studies. *Specific duties include:*

- Participates with other Team and Office personnel in the maintenance and augmentation of the National Antimicrobial Susceptibility Monitoring System and collaborations with the interagency partners, CDC, and USDA.
- Interacts with a variety of scientists from universities and other government agencies and participates in scientific meetings, and discussions to stay current in the areas of food safety, food borne disease, antimicrobial resistance, public health, and epidemiology.
- Interacts with drugs sponsors to provide expert input into the design and conduct of post approval monitoring protocols to assess public health impact of marketing of antimicrobial products in large populations.
- Participates with other Epidemiology Team members and governmental partners in the design, development, and conduct of veterinary producer prescribing surveys.
- Provides technical and epidemiological support to the regulatory and research activities of the Center and serves as a consultant for the agency, federal and state organizations regarding epidemiological issues. May be called upon to provide epidemiological expertise on drug residue and related regulatory issues to inter-agency and industry groups.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Candidates must have 52 weeks of specialized experience equivalent to the next lower grade level. Candidates must meet all the qualification requirements, including the time in grade, within 30 days after the closing date.

Interdisciplinary positions are classified to the specific series which have been determined to be appropriate for the vacancy based on the duties and responsibilities of the position and the general qualifications required to perform the work.

Candidates must meet the basic education requirements in any of the following occupations:

BIOLOGIST, GS-401

Applicants must have either (A) Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's degree (or higher) with major study in biological sciences, agriculture, natural resource management, chemistry, or related disciplines appropriate to the position; or (B) A combination of education and experience with courses equivalent to a major, as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

MICROBIOLOGIST, GS-403

Applicants must have either (A) Successful completion of a full 4-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's (or higher) degree in microbiology, biology, chemistry, or basic medical science which includes at least 20 semester hours in microbiology and other subjects related to the study of microorganisms, and 20 semester hours in the physical and a mathematical sciences combining course work in organic chemistry or biochemistry, physics, and college algebra, or their equivalent; OR (B) A combination of education and experience with courses equivalent to a major in microbiology, biology, chemistry, or basic medical science that included courses as shown in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

ANIMAL SCIENCE, GS-487

Applicants must show either:

(A) Degree in animal science, dairy science, poultry science; or a related discipline or field of animal science that included at least 30 semester hours in the basic biological and agricultural sciences, and 20 semester hours in animal science.

- For animal scientist positions, at least 10 of the required 20 semester hours in animal science must have been in courses dealing with the breeding, feeding, production, and management of livestock, and the care and preparation of their products.

- For dairy scientist positions, at least 10 of the required 20 semester hours in animal science must have been in dairy science.

- For poultry scientist positions, at least 10 of the required 20 semester hours in animal science must have been in poultry science.

OR

(B) Combination of education and experience - courses equivalent to a major in the basic biological and agricultural sciences, including a minimum of 20 semester hours in appropriate animal science subjects, as described in A above, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

General Health Science, GS-601

Basic requirements: Degree: major study in an academic field related to the health sciences or allied sciences appropriate to the work of the position.

VETERINARY MEDICAL OFFICER, GS-701

Applicants must possess a degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine or equivalent degree at a school approved or accredited by (a) the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), (b) a State department of education, or (c) a State Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners.

Graduates of foreign veterinary medical schools who do not meet the requirements specified above must furnish proof of (a) graduation from a veterinary medical school, (b) comprehension of and ability to communicate in the English language, and (c) passage of the written examination in veterinary medicine of the Educational Commission for Foreign Veterinary Graduates of the U.S. National Board of Veterinary Medical Examiners. Proof of English language proficiency may be met by (1) achieving a total score on the Test of English as a Foreign Language at least 550 with a listening comprehension score of at least 60 points, (2) earning an advanced degree (i.e., an MS or Ph.D.) at a U.S. college or university, or (3) graduating from a U.S. or Canadian English speaking high school. The following are exceptions to these requirements:

- Veterinarians who qualified between 1965 and 1972, who hold certificates under the program of the Educational Commission for Foreign Graduates.
- Veterinarians who are graduates of foreign veterinary colleges that were included on the September 1, 1963, list entitled, "Foreign Veterinary Colleges Evaluated by the Council on Education, American Veterinary Medical Association, : and who entered the United States or Canada and qualified as eligible for private practice or Federal employment on or before December 31, 1972.

CHEMIST, GS-1320

Applicants must have either (A) Successful completion of a full four-year course of study in an accredited college or university leading to a bachelor's (or higher) degree in physical sciences, life sciences or engineering that included 30 semester hours in chemistry, supplemented by course work in mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics; OR (B) A combination of education and experience with course work equivalent to a major as shown in A above, including at least 30 hours in chemistry, supplemented by mathematics through differential and integral calculus, and at least 6 semester hours of physics, plus appropriate experience or additional education.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCE is defined as experience that equipped the applicant with the particular knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform successfully the duties of the position, and that is typically in or related to the work of the position to be filled.

METHOD OF EVALUATION AND BASIS OF RATING Candidates found basically qualified will be evaluated on the extent and quality of experience, education, training, awards, etc. as shown on the application. Plus data obtained from the attached knowledge skills and abilities (KSA's). No written test is required.

1. *Knowledge of epidemiological methods and how they relate to public health decision-making.*
2. *Ability to analyze and evaluate scientific data using standard statistical methodology.*
3. *Ability to use computers and computer software.*
4. *Ability to effectively communicate orally, conduct meetings and negotiate.*

It is strongly recommended that applicants address the knowledge, skills, and ability statements in detail.

HOW TO APPLY:

Candidates may submit one of the following: an Application for Federal Employment (SF-171), an Optional Application for Federal Employment (OF 612), resume, curriculum vitae, or any other written format. Your application must include the following information:

1. Title, series, grade, and vacancy announcement number of the vacancy for which you want to be considered.

2. Full legal name and mailing address.
3. Daytime and evening telephone numbers.
4. For experiences most relevant to this position, include name of employer, dates of employment, job title, start and end dates, and a description of your duties and responsibilities for each job listed.
5. Average hours worked for each position if other than 40 hours per week.
6. Name, location, and date of educational institutions attended.
7. Type of degree, if any, and date received.
8. Major field of study.
9. List of relevant training including, course titles, dates, and number of hours and name of institution.
10. Description of honors, awards, and special qualifications, such as language skills or computer skills, along with dates acquired.
11. Clearly identify U.S. Citizenship (Proof required prior to employment).

PROOF OF EDUCATION: Candidates may submit a College transcript (official or unofficial) or, if not available, a list of college courses and Certificate of scholastic achievement. List should include a course description of any course(s) not readily identifiable by title, number of semester hours and grade.

Qualifying education gained at colleges and universities in foreign countries must be evaluated in terms of its equivalency to that acquired in American colleges and universities. Applicants educated in whole or in part in foreign countries must submit sufficient evidence, including transcripts, to an accredited private organization for an equivalency evaluation. A letter containing the results **MUST** accompany the application package.

CREDIT FOR EDUCATION: When academic credit is expressed in contract months, units, or other terms that differ from conventional semester or quarter hours, it is the responsibility of the applicant to provide an interpretation of such credits from the appropriate institution in order to equate them to the semester or quarter hours specified in this announcement.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUALIFICATIONS STATEMENT (enclosed with this announcement). It is strongly recommended that each applicant address the knowledge, skill, and ability statements in detail.

- X Written response to the knowledge, skills and abilities
- X If claiming veteran's preference, attach a copy of your DD214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof of eligibility.
- X College transcripts or list of courses, including title, credit hours and grade for each course if qualifying on education and/or changing occupational series;
- X Current federal employees must submit most recent performance appraisal/evaluation
- X Current and former federal employees must submit a copy of their most recent SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action
- X Application Background Survey: Please return the Background Survey with your application. The information you provide is used for statistical purposes. The return of this form will have no impact on your consideration for this position.

Veterans Preference for Federal Jobs: CE -101

If you served on active duty in the United States Military and received an honorable or general discharge, you may be eligible for veteran's preference. Service starting after 1 October 15, 1976 requires a Campaign Badge, or Expeditionary Medal or Service connected disability requirements. For information about eligibility requirements, call 912-757-3000 and request Veteran's Preference for Federal Jobs: CE 101

To claim veteran's preference, attach a copy of your DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, or other proof of eligibility.

-If claiming 5 point veteran's preference, list the dates (month, day, year) and branch of any active duty served.

-If you claim 10 point veteran's preference attached an SF-15, Application for 10 Point Veteran's Preference, plus the proof required by that form.

- The Defense Authorization Act of November 18, 1997, extended veterans' preference to persons who served on active duty during the Gulf War from August 2, 1990, through January 2, 1992. The law grants preference to persons otherwise eligible and who served on active duty during this period, regardless of where the person served or for how long. The law also authorizes the Secretary of each military department to award the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for service in Bosnia during the period

November 10, 1995, to a date to be determined. The award of the Medal is qualifying for veterans' preference. More information on veterans' preference is available in the VetGuide that may be found on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management web site at www.opm.gov.

Surplus or Displaced Employees in the Department of Health And Human Services (DHHS) Requesting Special Selection Priority Consideration Under The Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP)

If you are currently a DHHS employee, you may be entitled to special priority selection under the DHHS Career Transition Assistance Program (CTAP). To receive priority consideration, you must:

1. Be a current DHHS employee serving under an appointment in the competitive or excepted service in tenure group I or II, in receipt of (1) a Reduction in Force (RIF) specific separation notice, (2) a notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function outside of the commuting area, (3) a Certificate of Expected Separation (CES), or (4) other official notice that indicates the employee is surplus or eligible for discontinued service retirement (DSR) or as being in a surplus organization or occupation, and the date of the separation has not passed and you are still on the rolls of DHHS. You must submit a copy of the separation notice, CES, or other official notice along with your application in order to receive special priority consideration;
2. Be applying for a position that is at or below the grade level of the position from which you are being separated. The position must not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you are being separated;
3. Have a current (or last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent. This must be submitted with your application package;
4. Be currently employed by DHHS in the same commuting area of the position for which you are requesting priority consideration;
5. Submit your application (including all required documentation) by the vacancy announcement closing date and meet all the application criteria; and
6. Be rated well qualified for the position.

Well Qualified means: a surplus/displaced employee must meet the minimum qualifications and eligibility requirements for the position, including any documented selective factor(s), and be rated and ranked under the same procedures as merit promotion applicants to determine the extent to which he/she possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) to succeed in the position being filled. A cut-off score will be used to determine the well-qualified applicant(s).

Displaced Employees Requesting Special Selection Priority Consideration Under The Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP)

If you are a displaced Federal employee, you may be entitled to receive priority selection under the ICTAP.

To be eligible for the special selection priority, you must meet all of the following:

- (1) Be a displaced Federal employee;
- (2) Submit a copy of your current (or your last) performance rating of record of at least fully successful or equivalent;
- (3) Apply for a vacancy at or below the grade level from which you were or are being separated, that does not have a greater promotion potential than the position from which you have been or are being separated from;
- (4) Occupy, or was displaced from a position in the same local commuting area of the vacancy;
- (5) Submit an application (including all required documentation) for a specific vacancy within the periods established on the announcement and meet all the application and eligibility criteria;
- (6) Submit proof of eligibility; and
- (7) Be rated well qualified for the position.

"Well Qualified" means: a displaced employee must meet the minimum qualification and eligibility requirements for the position (including any selective factors), and be rated and ranked to determine the extent to which he/she possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSA's) to succeed in the position being filled. Under delegated examining procedures, the displaced employee must receive a score of 90 or better to receive selection priority.

Displaced employees may submit any (one) of the following as proof of eligibility for the special selection priority:

- (1) RIF separation notice, or notice of proposed removal for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function to another commuting area;
- (2) Documentation, e.g., SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action, showing that you were separated as a result of RIF, or for declining a directed reassignment or transfer of function to another commuting area;

- (3) Official certification from an agency stating that it cannot place an individual whose injury compensation has been or is being terminated;
- (4) Official notification from OPM that your disability annuity has been or is being terminated; or
- (5) Official notification from the Military Department or National Guard Bureau that the employee has retired under 5 U.S.C. 8337(h) or 8456.

All applicants will receive equal consideration without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, political affiliation, age or any other nonmerit factor.

Vietnam era veterans, disabled veterans, individuals with disabilities, and other individuals eligible for special appointing authorities are encouraged to apply.

WHERE TO OBTAIN FORMS

Office of Personnel Management web site at <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

WHERE TO SEND FORMS:

ADDRESS: Food and Drug Administration
Center for Veterinary Medicine
Attn: Ms. Vernelle M. Dewberry
Metro Park North II, Room N431
7500 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855
(301) 827-1592

Additional forms and information may be obtained from the address above or by calling Vernelle M. Dewberry (301) 827-1592, (Voice/TTY) or the FDA Job line (301) 443-1969.

FDA vacancy announcements are available by fax by calling our FaxBack number at (301) 827-4287.

Applications received become the property of the Center for Veterinary Medicine (CVM) and will not be returned.

In accordance with 18 U.S.C. 1719 and 39 U.S.C. 3201 SEQ., applications will not be accepted from applicants using franked government envelopes, or postage paid agency envelopes or metered mail.

All applications material must be postmarked or received by the closing date of this announcement.